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The Torrance Herald

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BELL ELECTED PRESIDENT OF GARDEN CLUB

Instruction Talk on Delphiniums Given—Mrs. Torrance to Speak in November

"Delphiniums" was the subject chosen by Mrs. H. S. Quest of the Larkspur gardens at Van Nuys, at the meeting of the Torrance District Garden club last Monday evening.

Mrs. Quest is an able speaker on that subject, and her talk was instructive as well as being one of the most interesting of the club year.

"Delphiniums," said Mrs. Quest, "may be propagated by three methods, root division, cuttings and seed."

"Right now is the best time to plant delphinium seed, for they like the cooler weather for germination. The seed must be fresh in order to insure good germination, which should run about 90% and rarely runs under 60%."

"Seed is sown on top of the ground and not in little trenches. After it is sown, press down with the hand and then barely cover with a light sprinkling of soil."

"I See'd 'em When They Tuk The Talkies Here"

Buddy's Impressions of the Fox Studio Company Making Talkies on Location at the Columbia Steel Plant

By BUDDY DARNELL Please mister, can a poor lady go see the pretty movie actors in there? Well sign this paper, so if you get kilt the Columbia Steel won't pay you no money and you can.

"Then for a walk to where the cameras were grinding away in the din of the busy steel mill, Fox Movietone was making talkies! All around were big lights throwing light on the subject, maybe Kleigs, maybe not, a big truck with the sound paraphernalia, the director and two or three hundred assistants, script girl (no assistants but plenty of assistance), and several workmen.

"Whoz the movie actors, sez I. Well, sez one of the assistants, there they are out in the middle, and that one there is William Collier, Senior. He's supposed to be the foreman of this mill. (Which reminds me of a story—Bert Lanz, he said to the director when he saw the actor's setup, 'You must think steel men are made up of a lot of pigs and huns. We're gentlemen here—it takes brains to run a steel mill, not a week's growth of beard!')

The "Mike" Well, all this time they're shooting the scene over and over—supposed to be a talkie but darned if I can hear them saying a word. Pretty soon discovered the "mike" and laff, I thought I'd turn over backward. On a long iron pole, settin on a kind of a tripod, which was wrapped at both ends, one end with a piece of old carpet and the other with gunny sacks, a box was hanging down, held up by straps, and underneath the box was the little "mike."

With this contraption they kept playin' heavy hangs over your head" with the actors. Then pretty soon it's all done, this scene about where two men are congratulating Mr. Collier on his new job, and after while they

move all the apparatus over to where they are to have the metal pouring shots. The Director Here they do another little piece (which will last about minus nothing time on the screen if they don't decide to cut it) and then we introduce ourselves to the director, Mr. Russell Birdwell, who sez that up until six months ago he was a Los Angeles newspaper man. He seemed to be a nice feller, in spite of all this scandalous publicity about the naughty directors, but maybe him being nice wgs because he used to be a newspaper man. He calls over Mr. William Collier Sr., the star of the picture, and introduces him, and immediately at and once he and my boy friend start discussing the world series. Mr. Collier sez this is the first time in eleven years he has missed a world series and one year when he was playing in dear old New York and the world series began on Wednesday and he was playing a malinee of "Nothing but the Best" on Wednesday. He had the matinee postponed until Thursday on account of the ball game, and at the theatre there was a big sign saying "No matinee today. Willie's gone to the ball game." Warrn't that cute?

Well we yelled and shouted around a while until everybody was hoarse trying to jabber and the director sez this was the first time in the history of talkies that an attempt has been made to register dialogue in the middle of such noise and I sez Land I hope so. The director he decided a pot of tea or a cup of coffee was just what they needed for strength to shoot the next scene, so they went tearin off in that general direction, and pretty soon we kum home.

FOSTER VALVE LOCATED SHOP IN TORRANCE

Take Over Plant of Watson Perforating Co.; \$25,000 in Machinery Installed

Another promising oil well equipment industry has chosen Torrance as its manufacturing and sales center. The Foster Valve Company has taken over the factory on 21st street, Torrance, formerly occupied by the Watson Perforating company, and over \$25,000 worth of machinery has been installed.

The ownership of the Foster Valve company is vested in H. C. Foster and Alva F. Page, who state that the company is fully financed and is a closed corporation.

Mr. Foster has been identified with the development of oil well valves for the past thirty years as an inventor and designer. He had justable plug valve which will be manufactured in the Torrance plant is the culmination of his long experience and is said to fulfill a long felt want in oil field equipment.

Mr. Foster was formerly associated with the Foster Valve Manufacturing company of Newark, N. J. Mr. Page will have charge of the administration and sales departments of the new company.

At present the company will require six to eight mechanical men in addition to the office force, but officials of the company state that they have good reason to believe that the demands for their valves will soon increase to a point that a great many more workmen will be required.

BETTER AND CHEAPER WATER

Council to Act October 29th. We Are Sure Getting Nearer and Nearer to Better and Cheaper Water. Send in Your Postcard! Don't Delay!

By GROVER C. WHYTE

The report of City Engineer Frank Leonard on the cost of installing and maintenance of a municipally owned water system for the City of Torrance will be presented to the City Council on October 29.

That certainly is great news for all of us. It is the first definite step that has been made toward solving the water problem of Torrance. The City Engineer's report will be an accurate estimate of the actual cost of installing an all new water distributing system together with the cost of drilling wells and developing water sources. An estimate of operating costs and water rates will also be included in the report.

The next move will then be up to the City Council to propose a bond issue to provide funds for the installation. If one can judge from the hundreds of replies to the postcard questionnaire sent out by the Chamber of Commerce, the bond issue will carry almost unanimously.

Out of 1230 postcards mailed, 569 have already been returned, and ALL OF THEM with the exception of two, expressed dissatisfaction with the present water situation. The average monthly water bill as shown

BAILEY MADE COMMANDER AM. LEGION

Elect New Officers at Tuesday Meeting. Burke is Adjutant. Attendance Prizes Offered

New officers of the Bert S. Crossland Post, American Legion, were elected Tuesday evening for the opening year. They are as follows: H. H. Bailey, commander; Charles Myers, first vice commander; Tom Bowker, second vice commander; J. H. Burke, adjutant; R. J. Deininger, finance officer; Ellis Harder, chaplain; F. A. Tiffany, historian; H. H. Cull, sergeant-at-arms; J. H. Scott, service officer.

Col. Jamieson and the Wynn Tire and Rubber company, formerly Baxter and Collins, each donated a paid up membership in the attendance contest for next year. The post had already offered a \$25.00 share of stock in the clubhouse as first prize.

HARBOR DIST. C. OF C. MEET AT INGLEWOOD

The monthly meeting of the Harbor District Chamber of Commerce will be held tonight, October 10, at Inglewood. Richard H. Barutz, director of the Los Angeles Municipal Airport will speak on "Development of Aviation in Los Angeles County," and Mayor C. C. Mosley, president of the Curtis Flying Service will speak on "Transportation of the Future."

The dinner will be served at 6:30 in the Inglewood Chamber of Commerce building, 219 N. Market street. A business meeting will precede the dinner gathering. An especially prepared program has been arranged for entertainment, including Madrigal Chorus, winners of the 1929 Southern California Contest, the celebrated Gertrude Marx Junior Symphony Orchestra, and the famous Ross Sisters of KXN fame, now appearing in talking pictures.

LADIES' AID BAZAAR Lutheran Ladies' Aid will hold a bazaar and dinner at the church hall at Sonoma and Avoca avenues tomorrow afternoon and evening. Cake and coffee will be served during the afternoon to those who desire it, and dinner will be served from 5 until 8.

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No Other Propositions to Be Submitted at Water Election

No other propositions will be submitted to the voters at the time the election is called for approving bonds for the installation of a new municipally owned water system for Torrance, according to Mayor John Dennis, chairman of the joint City Council and Chamber of Commerce committee.

"We have been approached by a number of citizens with requests that other propositions be presented at the time the bond election for the water system is called. While most of these other issues are meritorious and when the proper time comes no doubt will be submitted to the people, we do not wish to confuse the all-important water question with any other propositions," said the mayor.

"The water question is of such vital importance to the growth of Torrance, that the committee feels it should be presented to the people alone. City Engineer Frank Leonard has been working day and night in order to prepare a comprehensive and accurate estimate of the cost of installation and maintenance of an all new municipally owned water system and water source, and within a very short time the matter will be in shape to submit to the voters," the mayor continued.

"The joint committee from the Council and the Chamber of Commerce are not unmindful of the importance of some of these other issues; such as the Cabrillo avenue improvement, airplane field, and city park, but I think everyone will agree that the water question is of greater importance than any of them, and for this reason, we do not wish to imperil the satisfactory solution of the water question by any side issues, how ever worthy they may be. These matters will be taken up after the water question is settled," said Mayor Dennis.

by the 569 postcards returned is \$3.70. More detailed data on the postcard questionnaires will be given in next week's issue, and those who have not mailed in their answers are urged to do so at once. Surely no one will fail to do this much to help in the campaign for better and cheaper water. Do it now before you forget it.

While it is impossible to publish all the remarks contained on the hundreds of postcard questionnaires mailed back to the Chamber of Commerce, the following excerpts selected at random give an idea of the way the people of Torrance feel about the water question:

- "I pay \$3.85 for city water a month, and this does not include bath perfumes for tub."
"Torrance water three times what I paid for same size house in L.A."
"Poor pressure."
"Remarks—not printable."
"Rates too high and not fit to drink."
"Let's have municipal system."
"Lower rates and good water needed."
"Very poor pressure."
"\$8.45 per month—very expensive."
"\$5.00. It was \$2.00 higher than Long Beach bill."
"Present high water rates discourage well kept lawns, yards and beautifying of homes."
"I think Torrance water rates entirely too high."
"We must do something to better this condition."
"Am very much in favor of new system municipally owned."
"Let's have municipal system soon."
"Put in a new water system and kick the old Torrance Water Company out of the city."
"Hurry good work along."
"Want all new outfit."

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MAKES PROFIT FOR TORRANCE

Council and Chamber Directors Hear Report of Secretary Hyde Embodying Activities of Torrance Chamber of Commerce

That the Torrance Chamber of Commerce is paying its own way and returning a handsome profit to the taxpayers of Torrance was forcefully presented by Secretary Carl L. Hyde at the joint meeting of the City Council and the Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce Monday evening.

"Approximately half the tax money that will be collected by the City of Torrance this year will come from annexed territory, and had it not been for this newly annexed territory, the city tax rate in the original Torrance area would be close to \$1.00 per \$100 assessed valuation this year instead of the 53 cent rate which will be levied," said Hyde.

"Through the efforts of committees of the Chamber of Commerce the high assessed valuation in the old city of Torrance brought on by the oil boom have been substantially reduced; and while the reduction in the assessed valuation that has been allowed by the county assessor is most welcome, by the same token, had it been necessary to raise all the necessary funds to run the city from the original city tracts, it would have meant a greatly increased tax rate.

"Certainly no one will dispute the fact that the annexation of the great areas recently joined to the City of Torrance was conceived, fostered, and accomplished solely through the activities of the Chamber of Commerce, so that in addition to paying its own way, the Torrance Chamber of Commerce has actually saved the tax payers in the original city of Torrance at least 40 cents per \$100 assessed valuation," said Hyde.

Secretary Hyde also reported on numerous activities and objects of the Chamber of Commerce for the coming year.

El Prado Cut-off The El Prado extension is in Hyde's opinion the most important highway development to be consummated this year. This project calls for the extension of El Prado to connect with South Broadway at 19th street, and intersecting Normandie, Figueroa and Vermont avenues, all north arteries to the north. Plans for this El Prado cut-off are progressing rapidly, according to Mr. Hyde.

Junior College The Chamber of Commerce is also interested in securing for Torrance a Junior College and in providing increased grammar school facilities to care for the increasing population of this city. It was pointed out that a great number of Torrance parents do not feel that they can afford to send their children through the full university course, but that the location of a Junior College here to serve the entire district would enable high school graduates to continue their education without the necessity of leaving home.

The industrial committee consisting of 18 members, has done some excellent work," said Mr. Hyde. "The preliminary work of securing a new industry for Torrance, sometimes can best be accomplished without too much publicity, but this is a strong committee headed by W. Rufus Page and consisting of representatives of most of the major industries in Torrance and they have been doing some excellent work. On next Wednesday, the industrial committee will meet."

LEECH PLANS CELEBRATION

J. W. Leech, manager of the Torrance branch of the Bank of Italy, is planning a local celebration in conjunction with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Bank of Italy. Details of the ceremony have not been definitely settled but will be given in next week's paper, according to Mr. Leech.

Former Torrance Agent Gets Old Job Back at P. E.

H. K. Moss has been appointed Torrance agent of the Pacific Electric Railway company, it was announced by D. W. Pontius, president of the company.

Mr. Moss was agent at Gardena for eleven years until his transfer to Redondo on January 1. Old residents will remember him also as agent at the Torrance office eleven years ago.

Edison Contest Closes Tomorrow

Tomorrow at 5 p. m. is the closing hour of the boys' and girls' Thomas A. Edison contest, and all questionnaires must be left at the office of the Torrance Herald, 1232 El Prado by that time to be considered by the committee of judges appointed by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and consisting of Grover C. Whyte, chairman; Harold Wood, Mrs. Hitchcock, Dr. J. S. Lancaster and Bert Acree.

BILL THE BARBER SAYS A baseball umpire wears a mask so as to keep him from biting the players

Clean-Up Have you cleaned up your lot yet? This is Clean-Up and Point-Up Week and Superintendent of Streets Gasconde is making daily collection of rubbish, left in the alleys or parkways. Every effort is being made to clean up the city and put it in tidy shape before the winter rains begin. Do your part!

MR. KINGSLEY TO SPEAK At the October 10th meeting of the Women's club of Torrance, Mrs. W. Harold Kingsley, former editor of the Torrance Herald, will speak on "How to Read Your News."

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